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**CLOVIS MAN SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING  
THE U. S. POSTAL SERVICE OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Postal Inspector in Charge Bill P. Atkins announced today that JEFFREY LYNN PUTNEY, 59, of Clovis, California was sentenced today by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to 33 months in custody, and was ordered to pay restitution to the United States Postal Service in the amount of \$233,636.44 as a result of his defrauding the United States Postal Service of worker's compensation benefits. In June 2006 the defendant was convicted by a jury of 4 counts of mail fraud and 18 counts of wire fraud stemming from his conduct.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Stanley A. Boone and Kirk E. Sherriff, who prosecuted the case, Judge Wanger found that, in addition to defrauding the government of over \$200,000, the defendant also obstructed justice by testifying falsely at trial that he had performed 73 combat parachute jumps for the United States Marines while in Vietnam. The court found that this information was entirely false, because the defendant was actually a supply clerk with no airborne combat experience, and that the defendant testified to this falsity in order to curry favor with the jury as a purported war hero. The court increased the defendant's sentence based on his false testimony.

At trial, the evidence showed PUTNEY claimed that an injury in May 1998 while on duty with the United States Postal Service caused him to be totally disabled. He claimed to have suffered a severe back injury and the total loss of use of his lower right leg, and claimed he was unable to continue working for the Postal Service in any capacity. PUTNEY received federal worker's compensation benefits based on his claimed total disability.

The evidence at trial showed that in 1999 PUTNEY was videotaped loading and unloading a moving truck at his Clovis, California and Carrollton, Ohio residences. He was observed moving cabinets, a refrigerator, a slot machine, and numerous other heavy objects. The evidence also showed that, five days after a knee surgery which PUTNEY claimed caused him further disability, he was videotaped washing his car. At other times when PUTNEY claimed he was homebound with a walker and in need of attendant care for basic needs including bathroom functions, he was videotaped working in his yard without any assistance, and climbing a ladder while working on his gutters and pruning trees.